# PURA 2022 Annual Report

A Comprehensive Summary of the Authority's Work in 2022

February 15, 2023







#### Agenda

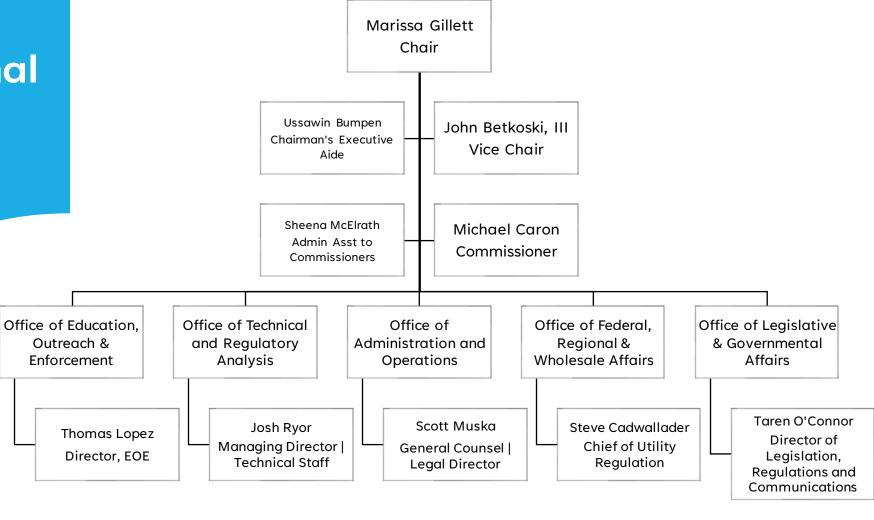
- PURA Overview
- Purpose of the Report
- Sector & Topic Overviews
  - Rate Cases
  - Grid Modernization
  - Electric Sector
  - Natural Gas Sector
  - Water Sector
  - Telecomm. & Utility Poles
- PURA Office of Education, Outreach & Enforcement
- Other Resources in the Report
  - Legislative Updates
  - Decision Appeals
  - Docket Procedure Guide

#### **About Us**

PURA is statutorily-charged with ensuring that Connecticut's investor-owned utilities, including the state's electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications companies, provide safe, clean, reliable, and affordable utility service and infrastructure. PURA's mission is essential to advancing the state's energy, economic, and environmental goals and is critical to maintaining public health and safety as well as a robust economy.

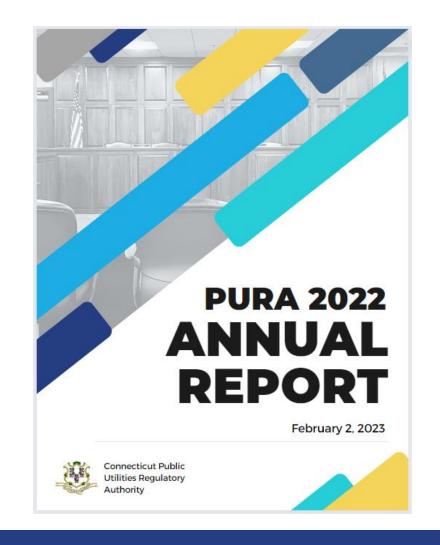
PURA is a quasi-judicial agency that interprets and applies the statutes and regulations governing all aspects of Connecticut's utility sector. Among other things, PURA sets the rates charged by investor owned utilities, advances the modernization of the electric distribution system, regulates the retail electric supplier market, implements federal requirements for natural gas pipeline safety, ensures adequate water system infrastructure investments, reviews mergers and acquisitions, provides education and outreach for consumers, and regulates the expansion of telecommunications infrastructure.

# PURA Organizational Chart



#### Purpose of the Annual Report

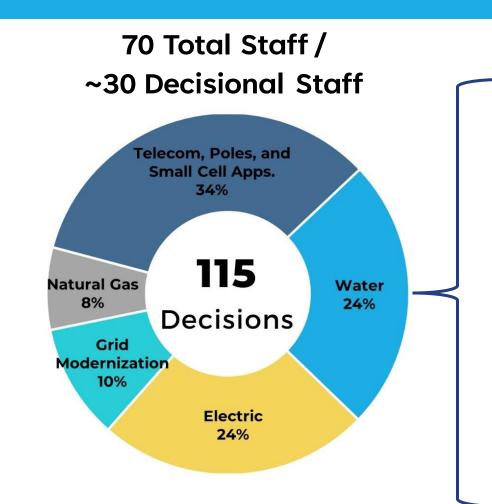
- Inventory of PURA's work in 2022;
- Provide clear summaries of key decisions;
- Update progress on ongoing major dockets;
- Provide resources for understanding complex regulatory topics;
- Educate the public to improve awareness and increase participation in PURA proceedings.



#### 2022 By the Numbers

#### Stakeholder Engagement Efforts

- 54 opportunities for written comments
- 54 Technical Meetings
- 78 Hearings
- 10 unique public engagement events
- 12 PURA 101 Workshops
- 12,740 customer complaints addressed



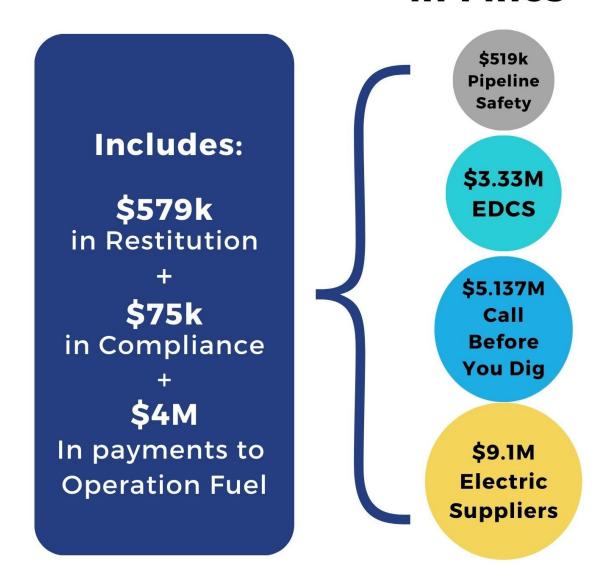
#### **Contains**

- 366 Dockets opened
- 278 Dockets closed
- 1,038 Motion Rulings
- 108 Final Decisions
- 5 Interim Decisions
- 2 Declaratory Rulings
- 294 licensing, certification, and submetering application decisions
- Over 2,000 total pages of analysis across decisions

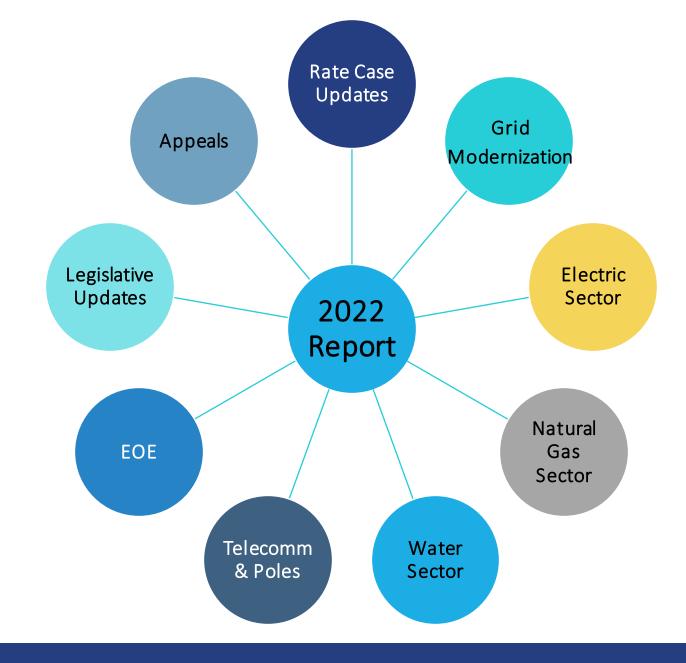


# 2022 By the Numbers

## Issued \$15.7M in Fines



# **Key Sections**





#### Office of Technical and Regulatory Analysis

Clean & Affordable Energy Unit

Supervisor – Stefanie Keohane Reliability, Security, & Resilience Unit

Supervisor – Steve Capozzi

Utility Performance & Analysis Unit

Supervisor – Peter Kramer

Revenue Requirements
Unit

Supervisor – Jim Vocolina

Gas Pipeline Safety
Unit & CBYD

Supervisor – Karl Baker

Strategy & Operations
Unit

Supervisor – Julia Dumaine



#### **Section 1: Rate Case Updates**

- Two active rate cases that will both conclude in 2023;
- Primary regulatory tool for ensuring just and reasonable distribution rates;
- Additional rate cases may start in 2023.
- PURA Rate Case Tutorials

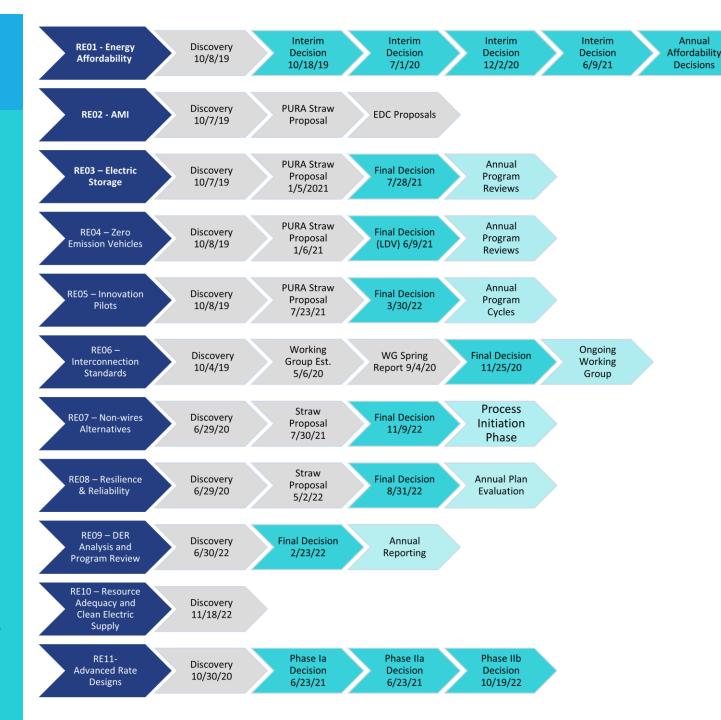
#### **Major Dockets**

- Docket No. 22-07-01 Aquarion Water Company
  - 207,000 customers in 56 towns affected
  - 4 opportunities for public comment offered by PURA
  - Decision deadline is March 17, 2023
- <u>Docket No. 22-08-08</u> United Illuminating Company
  - 341,000 customers in 17 towns affected
  - 4 opportunities for public comment offered by PURA
  - Decision deadline is August 25, 2023



### Section 2: Grid Modernization

- PURA's Equitable Modern Grid Framework:
  - Support the growth of Connecticut's green economy;
  - Enable a cost-effective, economy-wide transition to a decarbonized future;
  - Enhance customer access to a more resilient, reliable, and secure commodity; and
  - 4. Advance the ongoing energy affordability dialogue in the state, particularly in underserved communities.
- 9 of 11 reopener dockets have reached Final Decision

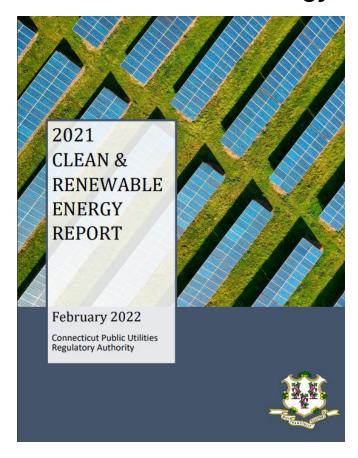


#### Section 2: Grid Modernization cont.

#### **Major Dockets**

17-12-03 RE05	Established the <u>Innovative Energy</u> <u>Solutions Program</u>		
17-12-03 RE07	Designed a framework to compare non- wires solutions against conventional grid upgrades for optimized cost-benefit		
17-12-03 RE08	Created a strategic resilience and reliability framework aimed at reducing costs and increasing reliability/resilience		
17-12-03 RE09	Centralized and consolidated inventory of all PURA clean energy annual program reviews		
17-12-03 RE11	Approved a two-tiered low-income discount rate for qualifying residential electric customers		

#### 2021 Clean & Renewable Energy Report





#### **Section 3: Electric Sector**

- Largest industry regulated by PURA
  - \$2.75 B in distribution revenue
  - 2 electric distribution companies
  - 1.5M customers, ~90% of all electric ratepayers
- Key 2022 Topics
  - Electric Supply Costs
  - Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms
  - Ongoing Performance Based Regulation (PBR) Process

#### **Major Dockets**

<u>22-01-03</u>	Eversource's 2022 rate adjustments for expenses incurred in 2021
22-01-04	United Illuminating's 2022 rate adjustments for expenses incurred in 2021
22-09-08	PURA's consolidation and streamlining of RAM filings to improve review efficiency and analysis
21-05-15 (Ongoing)	PURA's development of a performance- based regulator framework that will cost-effectively align EDC operations and services with the public interests



#### **Section 3: Electric Sector**

- 2023 PBR Process
  - Phase 1 set to conclude with April Final Decision
  - Proposed Phase 2 development of:
    - Revenue adjustment mechanisms
    - Reported metrics, score cards, and Performance Incentive Mechanisms
    - Distribution system planning and other regulatory mechanisms
  - Phase 2 schedule to be released with the Phase 1 Final Decision

Date	Event	Purpose
1/25/2023	Phase 1 Straw Proposal Issued & Request for Written Comments	Staff proposals on recommendations for a PBR framework and adoption of a set of Goals & Outcomes
2/1/2023	Stakeholder Workshop 4	Discussion of PURA's Phase 1 Straw Proposal and stakeholder presentations
2/16/2023	Straw Proposal Written Comments due	Stakeholder comments on the Phase 1 Straw Proposal
3/17/2023*	Distribution of Draft Decision	Finalization of a PBR framework and set of Goals & Outcomes
3/31/2023*	Written Exceptions Due	Opportunity for stakeholders to raise specific issues with Draft Decision
4/26/2023*	Regular Meeting/ Phase 1 Final Decision	Adoption and finalization of PBR framework and set of Goals & Outcomes

<sup>\*</sup>all three dates were recently updated and are currently marked Tentative



#### **Section 4: Natural Gas Sector**

- 441 Pipeline Safety Inspection Person-Days
- **598** CBYD Inspections
- **72** Violations
- \$5.5 M in Civil Penalties Issued
- Key 2022 Topics
  - Natural Gas Expansion Plan wind-down and the future of gas in Connecticut

#### **Major Dockets**

21-08-24 Investigated deceptive marketing practices of Yankee Gas, and ordered the wind-down of the natural gas System Expansion Plan (SEP)

Review of 2021 SEP-related revenues; set

hurdle rate moving forward using a 15year payback period

#### **Section 5: Water Sector**

- CT's water resources jointly overseen and protected by PURA, DEEP, and DPH
  - PURA's role is to ensure water rate designs to encourage conservation & responsible water use
- Key 2022 Topics
  - Multiple Water Infrastructure Conservation Adjustments (WICA)
  - Water sector consolidation

#### **Major Dockets**

<u>13-12-28</u> <u>WI07</u>	Jewett City Water Company WICA reconciliation		
13-02-20 <u>WI23</u>	Aquarion Water Company WICA reconciliation		
12-07-07 <u>WI16</u>	Hazardville Water Company WICA reconciliation		
13-06-20 RE06	Denied Aquarion Water Company's request to reset its WICA settlement		
21-12-07	Connecticut Water Company acquisition of the Miami Beach Water Company, Inc.		
22-04-01	Aquarion Water Company merger with The Torrington Water Company		



#### Section 6: Telecomm. & Utility Poles Sector

- PURA is responsible for promoting a competitive telecommunications market and facilitating safe infrastructure deployment
- Key 2022 Topics
  - Broadband deployment pursuant to PA 21-159
  - Utility Pole Safety

#### **Major Dockets**

<u>19-01-</u> <u>52RE01</u>	Authorized pole attachment application Improvements to aid broadband deployment, including a One-Touch- Make-Ready process
<u>21-11-05</u>	Established a standardized process to identify and address structurally compromised poles to protect the safety of both utility workers and the public
21-07-29	Approved a single transfer pilot program to remedy the rise in double poles
21-12-21	NEW as of 2/8/23 – developed a process for the construction of conduit excavations by broadband providers in the public rights-of-way



## Section 7: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement (EOE)

- Est. in July 2020
- Provides ratepayers and non-traditional stakeholders high quality customer service experience
- EOE staff are not subject to ex parte prohibitions the way PURA Decisional staff are
- Also responsible for analyzing and processing routine licensing and certification matters

#### Licensing & Certification Unit

- 7,623 Class I Renewable Energy Certifications
- 25 submetering applications
- 61 rights-of-way applications

#### **Education & Outreach Unit**

- 12,700+ customer complaints and inquiries addressed
- \$100,000+ returned to customers following complaint resolution

#### Mediation & Enforcement Unit

- 12 electric supplier enforcement actions
- \$12M+ in settlements and restitution
- Ongoing support of two active rate cases

#### **Working Group Admin**

- Vegetation Management Working Group
- Distributed Generation Working Group
- Represented PURA in dozens of state-mandated working groups (e.g. Water Planning Advisory Group)



#### Sections 8 & 9: Legislative & Decision Appeal Updates

Act	Title	Tasks Assigned to PURA	Effective Date	Progress	Next Steps
Public Act 22-08	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HYDROGEN POWER	Directs the Chairman of PURA, or her designee, to participate in a Task Force to study hydrogen-fueled energy in the state's economy and energy infrastructure.	5/23/2022	PURA has been an active participant in the Task Force, serving as the cochair of the Policy & Workforce Development Working Group with DEEP.	The Task Force submitted its report by the statutory due date of January 15, 2023

Appellant	Docket No.	PURA Decision Date	Issue	Significance	Status
United Illuminating	20-08-03 and 20-08- 03 RE01	7/14/2021	After finding UI's storm response was deficient in several areas, PURA imposed a civil penalty of \$1.3M for non-compliance with performance standards and accident reporting requirements and ordered a 15 basis point ROE reduction in UI's next rate case to incentivize management to focus on improved storm response performance by UI moving forward.	This case involves the Authority's ability to hold utilities accountable for deficient storm preparation and response.	The Superior Court's ruling affirmed PURA's decision on all counts. UI filed a notice of appeal, with preliminary papers requesting a transfer to the Supreme Court.

### Thank You

**PURA 2022 Annual Report** 

Contact: pura.information@ct.gov







#### **Appendix 1: Standard Docket Procedure Guide**

- Receive pre-filed testimony
- Technical meetings or Hearings
- Written comments
- Interrogatories
- Briefs

Step 1: Docket Initiation

Receive application or initiate on own motion

- Issue Notice of Proceeding
- Identify docket objectives
- Identify participants
- Review application

Step 2: Build the Record Step 3: Issue Draft Decision

- Summarize proceeding
- Standard of review
- PURA analysis
- Conclusions & orders

Written comments, exceptions, or Briefs

Oral arguments

Step 4: Make Changes, If Any Step 5: Issue Final Decision

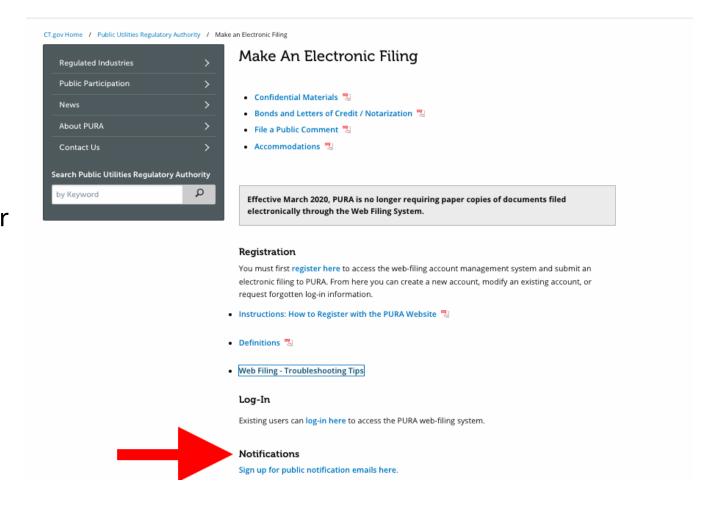
- Finalize decision at Regular Meeting
- Issue compliance requirements



#### **How to Engage with PURA**

- PURA's online calendar
- Sign up for email alerts:

Interested in receiving email updates for PURA proceedings? Sign up through PURA's email notification system. If you're having difficulties updating an existing account, follow these troubleshooting tips.



#### **Accessing Dockets**

